

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE HUMAN RIGHTS PAPER

REF: STATE 302058

1. EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING CHANGES IN ZAIRE HUMAN RIGHTS PAPER TRANSMITTED REFTEL:

2. INTRODUCTION: CHANGE 6TH SENTENCE TO READ: "AS IN MOST LDCS, THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT GIVES INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER POSITION ON THE SCALE OF VALUES AFTER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE COLLECTIVE "GOOD OF THE NATION".

3. PARA 1. B./: CHANGE FINAL SENTENCE TO READ: ' THERE ARE OFTEN PHYSICAL HARDSHIPS IN PRISON SUCH AS INADEQUATE, CROWDED CELLS, POOR SANITARY CONDITIONS AND SEVERE MALNUTRITION."

4. PARA 1 C.:CHANGE SECOND SENTENCE TO READ: " MOST WERE RELEASED RELATIVELY QUICKLY; OTHERS WERE DETAINED FOR A LONGER PERIOD AND SOME REMAIN IN PRISON."

5. PARA 1. C.: CHANGE FINAL SENTENCE TO READ: "IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THOSE ARRESTS ARE PART OF A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICY OR NOT, BUT MANY APPEAR TO BE UNCOORDINATED ACTIONS BY OVERZEALOUS OR CORRUPT LOCAL OFFICIALS."

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6. PARA 1. D.: THIRD AND FOURTH SENTENCES SHOULD READ:
"FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, WHO WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH TREASON IN CONNECTION WITH SHABA, WAS PROVIDED A PROMPT PUBLIC TRIAL BY THE STATE SECURITY COURT. HIS DEATH SENTENCE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT."

7. PARA 2. B. : CHANGE FIRST SENTENCE TO READ: "WHILE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL WITHIN THE COUNTRY IS GENERALLY UNRESTRICTED, TEMPORARY LIMITATIONS FOR REASONS OF SECURITY MAY BE IMPOSED ON TRAVEL TO SPECIFIC AREAS SUCH AS SHABA. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE MIGRATION TO THE CAPITAL." RESUME "FOREIGN TRAVEL AND IMMIGRATION, ETC."

8. PARA 3. A./: CHANGE FINAL SENTENCE TO READ: "IN EARLY 1977 THE GOZ COMMITTED ITSELF TO A MORE SEVERE IMF STABILIZATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE CONTROL OVER EXPENDITURES THROUGH BETTER MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES."

9. PARA 5. CHANGE TEXT TO READ: "THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAS AN UNEVEN RECORD CONCERNING OUTSIDE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. IT IS SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM THAT IT RESTRICTS OUTSIDE ACCESS, AND PERMITS MISSIONARIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, THE UNHCR, AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE TO OPERATE RELATIVELY FREELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ARE SOMETIMES LIMITED IN THEIR ACCESS OR ON OCCASION EXPELLED AS A RESULT OF REPORTING JUDGED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BE INACCURATE OR OTHERWISE CONTRARY TO THE NATION'S BEST INTERESTS. CUTLER

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